

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AGR-01 ICA-11 AID-05 EB-08 AF-10 ARA-10
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FODAG

PASS AGRICULTURE; PASS AID

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OCON, EAGR

SUBJECT: INFORMAL DONORS MEETING ON FOOD SECURITY, APRIL 28

1. FODAG HAS OBTAINED COPY, FROM FAO SECRETARIAT, OF ANNOTATED AGENDA FOR SUBJECT MEETING. IT INDICATES AREA OF SPECIAL INTEREST TO FAO. IT IS EXPECTED THAT ANNOTATED AGENDA WILL BE CIRCULATED AT BEGINNING OF MEETING OF COMMITTEE ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY, APRIL 24.

2. FOLLOWING IS ANNOTATED AGENDA: BEGIN TEXT.

1. ITEM: PURPOSE OF MEETING: TO HAVE INFORMAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS AMONG DELEGATIONS OF DONOR COUNTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS OF WAYS OF IMPROVING EFFECTIVENESS OF INTERENATIONAL ASSISTANCE FOR FOOD SECURITY, BOTH MULTILATERAL AND BILATERAL, WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO NATIONAL RESERVES AND FUTURE ROLE OF FSAS. MEETING WILL BE HELD IN PHILIPPINES ROOM AT 9:30 HOURS ON FRIDAY, 28 APRIL 1978.

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2. ITEM: CURRENT ARRANGEMENTS FOR HANDLING TRUST FUND CONTRIBUTIONS AND FOR COOPERATION WITH BILATERAL DONORS:
COMMENT: (1) FSAS TRUST FUNDS ARE PRESENTLY HANDLED ON AN INDIVIDUAL COUNTRY BASIS, WITH APPROVAL AND REVIEW PROCEDURES ARRANGED SEPARATELY THROUGH FAO WITH EACH TRUST FUND DONOR AND EACH RECIPIENT COUNTRY, FOR EACH PROJECT. ALTHOUGH IN MANY CASES THIS SYSTEM WORKS REASONABLY SMOOTHLY,

PROBLEMS ARISE WHERE THERE IS LACK OF DONOR INTEREST IN CERTAIN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WITH WORTHY PROJECTS. TO RESOLVE THIS, COULD PART OF EACH TRUST FUND PLEDGE BE MADE ON A "GENERAL PURPOSE" MULTILATERAL BASIS, LEAVING DISCRETION TO SECRETARIAT TO ALLOCATE AMONG RECIPIENTS WITHIN AGREED CRITERIA? HOW COULD MULTILATERAL AID-GIVING ORGANIZATIONS INCREASE THEIR PARTICIPATION? (2) AS REGARDS BILATERAL PARTICIPATION IN FOOD SECURITY ASSISTANCE, SECRETARIAT WILL DESCRIBE INFORMAL CONSULTATIVE PROCEDURES WITH SOME BILATERAL DONORS WHICH HAVE BEEN DEVELOPED (WITH THE CLOSE PARTICIPATION OF EACH RECIPIENT COUNTRY CONCERNED) TO DETERMINE WHETHER BILATERAL AID COULD SUPPORT PARTICULAR LARGE-SCALE PROJECT (E.G. TANZANIA). BILATERAL DONOR COUNTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS ARE ASKED TO INDICATE IF THEY WOULD BE INTERESTED, IN PRINCIPLE, IN WORKING MORE CLOSELY WITH FAO/FSAS TO HELP IDENTIFY FOOD SECURITY PROJECT PROPOSALS IN SPECIFIC DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WHICH MIGHT BE SUPPORTED ON BILATERAL BASIS? SHOULD THIS INITIALLY BE HANDLED AT HEADQUARTERS OR AT COUNTRY LEVEL?

3. ITEM: POSSIBLE ROLE FOR FSAS AS CLEARING HOUSE FOR EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION ON FOOD SECURITY PROJECTS OR PROJECT PROPOSALS, ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES, PLANS FOR MISSIONS, ETC., PLUS SUGGESTIONS FOR WAYS OF IMPROVING USEFULNESS OF FSAS INFORMATION NOTE. COMMENT: CLEARING HOUSE AND INFORMATION FUNCTION OF FSAS COULD BE STRENGTHENED IF DONOR COUNTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS SO DESIRE. SECRETARIAT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WILL EXPLAIN INFORMAL PROCEDURES ADOPTED FOR REGULAR EXCHANGES OF INFORMATION WITH SOME BILATERAL DONORS (E.G. FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY) AND PURPOSE OF THIS EXERCISE. WOULD OTHER DONOR COUNTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS BE WILLING MAKE AVAILABLE, PERIODICALLY, INFORMATION ON OWN PRESENT AND FUTURE PROGRAM? SIX INFORMATION NOTES ON SCHEME'S ACTIVITIES HAVE ALREADY BEEN ISSUED. NOTES COULD ALSO SERVE AS VEHICLE FOR DISSEMINATING INFORMATION ON MULTILATERAL FOOD SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS AND THUS HELP ENSURE EFFICIENT USE OF AVAILABLE RESOURCES AND IDENTIFY POSSIBILITY OF JOINT ACTION WHERE THERE IS COMMON INTEREST.

4. ITEM: POSSIBLE ARRANGEMENTS FOR PARTICIPATION OF DONORS IN FSAS PROJECT PREPARATION MISSION OR FAO PARTICIPATION IN DONOR MISSIONS. SECRETARIAT WILL EXPLAIN EXPERIENCE OF FSAS IN CONCEPT OF NATIONAL FOOD SECURITY PROGRAMS CONSISTING OF RELATED PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES IN PARTICULAR COUNTRY (GUINEA-BISSAU). COMMENT: DONOR PARTICIPATION IN FSAS PROJECTS MISSIONS HAS PROVED USEFUL IN SPEEDING UP PROJECT PREPARATION AND APPROVAL PROCESS. ARE DONORS INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATION (WITHOUT PRIOR COMMITMENT) WITH FAO IN DEVELOPING CONCEPT OF NATIONAL FOOD SECURITY

PROGRAMS FROM WHICH, IF INTERESTED, DONORS COULD
SUBSEQUENTLY SELECT INDIVIDUAL PROJECTS FOR FINANCING
EITHER DIRECTLY UNDER SCHEME OR ON BILATERAL BASIS
SEPARATELY AGREED WITH RECIPIENT COUNTRIES?

5. ITEM: USE OF FOOD AID COUNTERPART FUNDS FOR FOOD
SECURITY PROJECTS: FSAS EXPERIENCE AND FEASIBILITY OF
EXTENDING THIS PRACTICE. SECRETARIAT WILL DESCRIBE FOOD
AID ALLOCATIONS WHICH HAVE SET ASIDE COUNTERPART FUNDS
FOR USE IN RELATED FOOD SECURITY PROGRAMS (CHAD). END TEXT.
GARDNER

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